

ANNOUNCING AN ACTION NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

As Governor, I make hundreds of appointments every year to State Boards and Commissions that advise State Government. Many who serve in this capacity find it a highly rewarding experience, gaining insight into the complexities of public programs and building new skills and contacts that add to their own professional development.

Wisconsin needs a diversity of talent, perspectives, and experiences serving on these public bodies in order to meet the challenges confronting our state. That is why my office is partnering with the Wisconsin Women's Council to create a web-based appointments database where organizations and individuals can access information about current and future vacancies on State Boards and Commissions, along with information on how to apply and where to get information on these organizations. That database is now available at http://womenscouncil.wi.gov.

I am proud to say that my Administration is the most diverse in Wisconsin's history and that diversity extends to gender. Following my inauguration as Governor, the Center for Women in Government upgraded Wisconsin's ranking from 16th to 7th in the nation (and 1st in the Midwest) for the number of women appointed to top policy positions. By comparison, Minnesota ranks 43rd and Illinois ranks 35th. I have an equally proud track record in appointing highly qualified women to serve on Boards and Commissions.

I hope you will share this new tool with your members and visit the database often. I encourage applications by both seasoned and emerging leaders so we can continue to build the pool of diverse and talented women interested in public service appointments.